

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

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2009/2010 Summer Reading:

1. Read *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. The text can be found online. Write two one and a half page examinations in which you analyze the work from the perspective of two different schools of critical literary thought. If you are not familiar with various schools of literary criticism, come see me before you leave for the summer or search for them online. You can Google them and will get tons of hits.

These two papers will be handed in on the first day of class. We will focus the first few classes on your examination of Kafka's work. Please come prepared.

2. Read *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* by Michael Ondaatje. Keep a journal in which you make note of the following:

a) Repetitions: Locate exact repetitions – identical or nearly identical words or details – and note the number of times each repeats.

b) Strands. A strand is a repetition of the same kind of detail or word, a grouping of the same or similar words or details. (For example, “polite, courteous, mannerly” or “accuse, defense, justice, witness” are strands.

c) Binary Oppositions. Locate details or words that form or suggest binary oppositions. We call these binaries or organizing contrasts.

Here are some examples: open/closed; naïve/self-conscious; grey/brown (note the opposition doesn't have to be as stark as black/white or light/dark.)

d) Choose what you think are the key repetitions, strands, and binaries – which may involve renaming them or labeling them – and rank them in some order of importance.

e) Write one page in which you explain your choice of one repetition, strand or one binary as especially significant to the overall meaning of the novel.

The journal will be handed in on the first day of the second week of class.

However, don't put this off until after school has started, as you will have more than enough work to do.

3. You will be writing your own *Collected Works* in the AP Literature Class. You need to choose a topic that interests you, and do some research over the summer. You may choose a person (a writer, an athlete, a politician, a scientist, etc.) or an area of interest (a war, a branch of science, a machine, etc). This should be something that you have a keen interest in, as you will be researching and writing about the topic you choose for the whole year, in a variety of ways: poems, narratives, interviews, dialogues, and so forth. As you do your research this summer, you should take notes of important facts or insights in a research journal, and keep a bibliography of the sources you consulted. This may be one biography or work of non-fiction, or a number of relevant web-sites. I will be meeting with you early in the year to look at your notes and talk with you about the *Collected Works* assignment.

Don't spend too much time on this one (number 3), as you may end up changing your mind.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions about the assignments at

ben.clark@asfg.mx or ambristerclark@yahoo.com or my Wikispace [asfgEnglish12](#).
Have a great summer. Benjamin Clark